

Observation of $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$

P.-C. Lu,⁶³ M.-Z. Wang,⁶³ R. Chistov,^{45,55} P. Chang,⁶³ I. Adachi,^{18,14} J. K. Ahn,⁴¹ H. Aihara,⁸⁸ S. Al Said,^{81,39} D. M. Asner,³ H. Atmacan,⁷⁷ V. Aulchenko,^{4,67} T. Aushev,⁵⁶ R. Ayad,⁸¹ V. Babu,⁸² I. Badhrees,^{81,38} A. M. Bakich,⁸⁰ V. Bansal,⁶⁹ P. Behera,²⁶ C. Beleño,¹³ M. Berger,⁷⁸ V. Bhardwaj,²² B. Bhuyan,²⁴ T. Bilka,⁵ J. Biswal,³⁴ G. Bonvicini,⁹² A. Bozek,⁶⁴ M. Bračko,^{50,34} T. E. Browder,¹⁷ L. Cao,³⁶ D. Červenkó,⁵ M.-C. Chang,⁹⁵ V. Chekelian,⁵¹ A. Chen,⁶¹ B. G. Cheon,¹⁶ K. Chilikin,⁴⁵ K. Cho,⁴⁰ S.-K. Choi,¹⁵ Y. Choi,⁷⁹ S. Choudhury,²⁵ D. Cinabro,⁹² S. Cunliffe,⁸ N. Dash,²³ S. Di Carlo,⁴³ Z. Doležal,⁵ T. V. Dong,^{18,14} Z. Drásal,⁵ S. Eidelman,^{4,67,45} D. Epifanov,^{4,67} J. E. Fast,⁶⁹ T. Ferber,⁸ B. G. Fulsom,⁶⁹ R. Garg,⁷⁰ V. Gaur,⁹¹ N. Gabyshev,^{4,67} A. Garmash,^{4,67} M. Gelb,³⁶ A. Giri,²⁵ P. Goldenzweig,³⁶ E. Guido,³² J. Haba,^{18,14} K. Hayasaka,⁶⁶ H. Hayashii,⁶⁰ S. Hirose,⁵⁷ W.-S. Hou,⁶³ C.-L. Hsu,⁵² T. Iijima,^{58,57} K. Inami,⁵⁷ G. Inguglia,⁸ A. Ishikawa,⁸⁶ R. Itoh,^{18,14} M. Iwasaki,⁶⁸ Y. Iwasaki,¹⁸ W. W. Jacobs,²⁷ H. B. Jeon,⁴² S. Jia,² Y. Jin,⁸⁸ D. Joffe,³⁷ K. K. Joo,⁶ T. Julius,⁵² A. B. Kaliyar,²⁶ T. Kawasaki,⁶⁶ H. Kichimi,¹⁸ C. Kiesling,⁵¹ D. Y. Kim,⁷⁶ H. J. Kim,⁴² J. B. Kim,⁴¹ K. T. Kim,⁴¹ S. H. Kim,¹⁶ K. Kinoshita,⁷ P. Kodyš,⁵ S. Korpar,^{50,34} D. Kotchetkov,¹⁷ P. Križan,^{46,34} R. Kroeger,⁵³ P. Krokovny,^{4,67} T. Kuhr,⁴⁷ R. Kulasiri,³⁷ A. Kuzmin,^{4,67} Y.-J. Kwon,⁹⁴ Y.-T. Lai,¹⁸ J. S. Lange,¹¹ I. S. Lee,¹⁶ S. C. Lee,⁴² L. K. Li,²⁸ Y. B. Li,⁷¹ L. Li Gioi,⁵¹ J. Libby,²⁶ D. Liventsev,^{91,18} M. Lubej,³⁴ T. Luo,¹⁰ M. Masuda,⁸⁷ T. Matsuda,⁵⁴ D. Matvienko,^{4,67,45} M. Merola,^{31,59} K. Miyabayashi,⁶⁰ H. Miyata,⁶⁶ R. Mizuk,^{45,55,56} G. B. Mohanty,⁸² H. K. Moon,⁴¹ T. Mori,⁵⁷ R. Mussa,³² M. Nakao,^{18,14} T. Nanut,³⁴ K. J. Nath,²⁴ Z. Natkaniec,⁶⁴ M. Nayak,^{92,18} N. K. Nisar,⁷² S. Nishida,^{18,14} S. Ogawa,⁸⁵ S. Okuno,³⁵ H. Ono,^{65,66} H. Ozaki,^{18,14} P. Pakhlov,^{45,55} G. Pakhlova,^{45,56} B. Pal,³ S. Pardi,³¹ H. Park,⁴² S. Paul,⁸⁴ T. K. Pedlar,⁴⁸ R. Pestotnik,³⁴ L. E. Piilonen,⁹¹ V. Popov,^{45,56} E. Prencipe,²⁰ A. Rabusov,⁸⁴ M. Ritter,⁴⁷ A. Rostomyan,⁸ G. Russo,³¹ Y. Sakai,^{18,14} M. Salehi,^{49,47} S. Sandilya,⁷ L. Santelj,¹⁸ T. Sanuki,⁸⁶ V. Savinov,⁷² O. Schneider,⁴⁴ G. Schnell,^{1,21} C. Schwanda,²⁹ Y. Seino,⁶⁶ K. Senyo,⁹³ M. E. Sevier,⁵² V. Shebalin,^{4,67} C. P. Shen,² T.-A. Shibata,⁸⁹ J.-G. Shiu,⁶³ B. Shwartz,^{4,67} F. Simon,^{51,83} J. B. Singh,⁷⁰ A. Sokolov,³⁰ E. Solovieva,^{45,56} M. Starič,³⁴ J. F. Strube,⁶⁹ M. Sumihama,¹² T. Sumiyoshi,⁹⁰ W. Sutcliffe,³⁶ M. Takizawa,^{75,19,73} U. Tamponi,³² K. Tanida,³³ F. Tenchini,⁵² M. Uchida,⁸⁹ T. Uglov,^{45,56} Y. Unno,¹⁶ S. Uno,^{18,14} P. Urquijo,⁵² Y. Usov,^{4,67} S. E. Vahsen,¹⁷ C. Van Hulse,¹ R. Van Tonder,³⁶ G. Varner,¹⁷ A. Vinokurova,^{4,67} V. Vorobyev,^{4,67,45} A. Vossen,⁹ B. Wang,⁷ C. H. Wang,⁶² X. L. Wang,¹⁰ M. Watanabe,⁶⁶ S. Watanuki,⁸⁶ E. Widmann,⁷⁸ E. Won,⁴¹ H. Ye,⁸ J. H. Yin,²⁸ C. Z. Yuan,²⁸ Z. P. Zhang,⁷⁴ V. Zhilich,^{4,67} V. Zhukova,^{45,55} V. Zhulanov,^{4,67} and A. Zupanc^{46,34}

(The Belle Collaboration)

¹University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, 48080 Bilbao

²Beihang University, Beijing 100191

³Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973

⁴Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics SB RAS, Novosibirsk 630090

⁵Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, 121 16 Prague

⁶Chonnam National University, Kwangju 660-701

⁷University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221

⁸Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, 22607 Hamburg

⁹Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708

¹⁰Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Ion-beam Application (MOE) and Institute of Modern Physics, Fudan University, Shanghai 200443

¹¹Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, 35392 Gießen

¹²Gifu University, Gifu 501-1193

¹³II. Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, 37073 Göttingen

¹⁴SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies), Hayama 240-0193

¹⁵Gyeongsang National University, Chinju 660-701

¹⁶Hanyang University, Seoul 133-791

¹⁷University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

¹⁸High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), Tsukuba 305-0801

¹⁹J-PARC Branch, KEK Theory Center, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), Tsukuba 305-0801

²⁰Forschungszentrum Jülich, 52425 Jülich

²¹IKERBASQUE, Basque Foundation for Science, 48013 Bilbao

²²Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali, SAS Nagar, 140306

²³Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Satya Nagar 751007

- ²⁴Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Assam 781039
- ²⁵Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, Telangana 502285
- ²⁶Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai 600036
- ²⁷Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47408
- ²⁸Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049
- ²⁹Institute of High Energy Physics, Vienna 1050
- ³⁰Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino 142281
- ³¹INFN—Sezione di Napoli, 80126 Napoli
- ³²INFN—Sezione di Torino, 10125 Torino
- ³³Advanced Science Research Center, Japan Atomic Energy Agency, Naka 319-1195
- ³⁴J. Stefan Institute, 1000 Ljubljana
- ³⁵Kanagawa University, Yokohama 221-8686
- ³⁶Institut für Experimentelle Teilchenphysik, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, 76131 Karlsruhe
- ³⁷Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144
- ³⁸King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, Riyadh 11442
- ³⁹Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah 21589
- ⁴⁰Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information, Daejeon 305-806
- ⁴¹Korea University, Seoul 136-713
- ⁴²Kyungpook National University, Daegu 702-701
- ⁴³LAL, Univ. Paris-Sud, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay
- ⁴⁴École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne 1015
- ⁴⁵P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow 119991
- ⁴⁶Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana, 1000 Ljubljana
- ⁴⁷Ludwig Maximilians University, 80539 Munich
- ⁴⁸Luther College, Decorah, Iowa 52101
- ⁴⁹University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur
- ⁵⁰University of Maribor, 2000 Maribor
- ⁵¹Max-Planck-Institut für Physik, 80805 München
- ⁵²School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010
- ⁵³University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677
- ⁵⁴University of Miyazaki, Miyazaki 889-2192
- ⁵⁵Moscow Physical Engineering Institute, Moscow 115409
- ⁵⁶Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow Region 141700
- ⁵⁷Graduate School of Science, Nagoya University, Nagoya 464-8602
- ⁵⁸Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute, Nagoya University, Nagoya 464-8602
- ⁵⁹Università di Napoli Federico II, 80055 Napoli
- ⁶⁰Nara Women's University, Nara 630-8506
- ⁶¹National Central University, Chung-li 32054
- ⁶²National United University, Miao Li 36003
- ⁶³Department of Physics, National Taiwan University, Taipei 10617
- ⁶⁴H. Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Krakow 31-342
- ⁶⁵Nippon Dental University, Niigata 951-8580
- ⁶⁶Niigata University, Niigata 950-2181
- ⁶⁷Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk 630090
- ⁶⁸Osaka City University, Osaka 558-8585
- ⁶⁹Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington 99352
- ⁷⁰Panjab University, Chandigarh 160014
- ⁷¹Peking University, Beijing 100871
- ⁷²University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260
- ⁷³Theoretical Research Division, Nishina Center, RIKEN, Saitama 351-0198
- ⁷⁴University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026
- ⁷⁵Showa Pharmaceutical University, Tokyo 194-8543
- ⁷⁶Soongsil University, Seoul 156-743
- ⁷⁷University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina 29208
- ⁷⁸Stefan Meyer Institute for Subatomic Physics, Vienna 1090
- ⁷⁹Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon 440-746
- ⁸⁰School of Physics, University of Sydney, New South Wales 2006
- ⁸¹Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Tabuk, Tabuk 71451
- ⁸²Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai 400005
- ⁸³Excellence Cluster Universe, Technische Universität München, 85748 Garching

⁸⁴*Department of Physics, Technische Universität München, 85748 Garching*⁸⁵*Toho University, Funabashi 274-8510*⁸⁶*Department of Physics, Tohoku University, Sendai 980-8578*⁸⁷*Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo, Tokyo 113-0032*⁸⁸*Department of Physics, University of Tokyo, Tokyo 113-0033*⁸⁹*Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo 152-8550*⁹⁰*Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo 192-0397*⁹¹*Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061*⁹²*Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48202*⁹³*Yamagata University, Yamagata 990-8560*⁹⁴*Yonsei University, Seoul 120-749*⁹⁵*Department of Physics, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taipei 24205*

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We report the study of $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$ decays using a 772×10^6 $B\bar{B}$ pair data sample recorded on the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance with the Belle detector at KEKB. The following branching fractions are measured: $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-) = (4.10^{+0.45}_{-0.43} \pm 0.50) \times 10^{-6}$, $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+) = (3.70^{+0.39}_{-0.37} \pm 0.44) \times 10^{-6}$, $\mathcal{B}(\eta_c \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^- + \text{c.c.}) = (2.83^{+0.36}_{-0.34} \pm 0.35) \times 10^{-3}$ and $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\phi) = (7.95 \pm 2.09 \pm 0.77) \times 10^{-7}$, where c.c. denotes the corresponding charge-conjugation process. The intermediate resonance decays are excluded in the four-body decay measurements. We also find evidence for $\mathcal{B}(\eta_c \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda} + \text{c.c.}) = (3.48 \pm 1.48 \pm 0.46) \times 10^{-3}$ and $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}K^+) = (2.23 \pm 0.63 \pm 0.25) \times 10^{-6}$. No significant signals are found for $J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda} + \text{c.c.}$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda}(1520)\Lambda K^+$; we set the 90% confidence level upper limits on their decay branching fractions as $< 1.80 \times 10^{-3}$ and $< 2.08 \times 10^{-6}$, respectively.

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Baryonic B decays have been studied at the B-factories [1], and many intriguing features have been found. Baryon-antibaryon pairs are produced almost collinearly in most baryonic B decays such that their masses peak near threshold. There seems to exist a hierarchical structure in the branching fractions of multibody decays, e.g., $\mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}_c^-\pi^+\pi^-) > \mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}_c^-\pi^+) > \mathcal{B}(B^0 \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}_c^-)$ [2,3]. The angular distribution of the proton against the energetic meson (K^+ or π^- for the following cases) in the dibaryon system of $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{p}K^+$ and $B^0 \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\pi^-$ show a trend opposite to those predicted by theory [1]. These two decays occur presumably via the $b \rightarrow sg$ penguin process, where g denotes a hard gluon.

Lately, many more interesting phenomena in baryonic B decays have been found by the LHCb experiment, e.g., very rare two-body decays like $B^0 \rightarrow p\bar{p}$ [4], first evidence for CP violation in baryonic B decays [5], baryonic B_s decay [6], baryonic B_c decay [7], and many first observations of four-body B^0 and B_s decays [8].

A generalized factorization picture [9] can qualitatively explain some of the experimental findings. However, the

predicted branching fractions may differ by a factor of ten from experimental measurements, e.g., $B^0 \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}D^{*-}$ [10]. Later theoretical predictions [11] better compare with data after using improved baryonic form factors. It is clear that further studies of baryonic B decays are needed in order to improve theoretical understanding. In this paper, we report measurements of $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$, for which theoretical predictions of $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-)$ [12] and $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\phi)$ [13] are available.

The data sample used in this study corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 711 fb^{-1} , which contains 772×10^6 $B\bar{B}$ pairs produced at the $\Upsilon(4S)$ resonance. The Belle detector [14,15] is located at the interaction point (IP) of the KEKB asymmetric-energy e^+ (3.5 GeV) e^- (8 GeV) collider [16,17]. It is a large-solid-angle spectrometer comprising six specialized subdetectors: the Silicon Vertex Detector, the 50-layer Central Drift Chamber (CDC), the Aerogel Cherenkov Counter (ACC), the Time-Of-Flight scintillation counter (TOF), the electromagnetic calorimeter (ECL), and the K_L^0 and muon detector (KLM). A superconducting solenoid surrounding all but the KLM produces a 1.5 T magnetic field.

In this analysis, we combine $p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ ($\bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$) to form B^+ candidates. We require charged particles (tracks from Λ are excluded) to originate near the IP, less than 1.0 cm away along the positron beam direction and less than 0.2 cm away in the transverse plane. To identify a kaon or a proton track, we use the likelihood information from

the charged-hadron identification system (CDC, ACC, TOF) [18] and apply the same selection criteria as in Ref. [19]. We use information from ECL and KLM to reject charged particles resembling electrons and muons. We require $\Lambda(p\pi^-)$ candidates to have a displaced vertex that is consistent with a long-lived particle originating from the IP and a mass between 1.111 and 1.121 GeV/c^2 .

We use the following two variables, $\Delta E \equiv E_{\text{recon}} - E_{\text{beam}}$ and $M_{\text{bc}} \equiv \sqrt{(E_{\text{beam}}/c^2)^2 - (P_{\text{recon}}/c)^2}$, to identify signal, where $E_{\text{recon}}/P_{\text{recon}}$ and E_{beam} are the reconstructed B energy/momentum and beam energy measured in the $\Upsilon(4S)$ rest frame, respectively. We define $5.24 < M_{\text{bc}} < 5.29 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $|\Delta E| < 0.2 \text{ GeV}$ as the fit region; $5.27 < M_{\text{bc}} < 5.29 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $|\Delta E| < 0.03 \text{ GeV}$ as the signal region.

The dominant background is from the continuum process ($e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$, $q = u, d, s, c$). We generate phase space $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$ signal events and continuum background using EvtGen [20] and later process them with a GEANT3-based detector simulation program that provides the detector-level information [21]. These Monte Carlo (MC) samples are used to optimize the signal selection criteria. We use a neural network package, Neurobayes [22], for background suppression. There are 21 input variables for the training of Neurobayes: 17 modified Fox-Wolfram moments treating the information of particles involved in the signal B candidate separately from those in the rest of the event [23,24] to distinguish spherical $B\bar{B}$ events from the jetlike $q\bar{q}$ events, the missing mass of each event, the vertex difference between the B^+ candidate and the accompanying B , the angle between B^+ flight direction and the beam axis in the $\Upsilon(4S)$ rest frame, and the tagging information for the accompanying B [25]. The output value of Neurobayes is between +1 ($B\bar{B}$ -like) and -1 ($q\bar{q}$ -like). The optimized selection and its related systematic uncertainty is mode dependent.

We consider at most one B^+ candidate in each event: if there are multiple candidates, we select the one with the smallest ($\chi_{B_{\text{vtx}}}^2 + \chi_{\Lambda_{\text{vtx}}}^2$), where $\chi_{B(\Lambda)_{\text{vtx}}}^2$ represents the χ^2 value of $B(\Lambda)$ vertex fit. The probability to have multiple B candidates is less than 6% and the success rate of this selection is larger than 92% according to MC study.

In the investigation of possible intermediate states in $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$, we check the mass spectra from combinations of various final-state particles in and near the signal region. We find many intermediate resonances: $\eta_c, J/\psi$ and χ_{c1} in $M(p\bar{\Lambda}K^-)$; ϕ in $M(K^+K^-)$; $\Lambda(1520)$ in $M(pK^-)$. As an example, Fig. 1 shows the pK^- mass distribution for $p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ events in and near signal region with all selection cuts applied (including the charmonia veto and ϕ veto mentioned below). A clear $\Lambda(1520)$ peak is observed. After removing events in the mass windows of resonances: $2.92 < M(p\bar{\Lambda}K^-) < 3.11 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ for η_c and J/ψ , $3.49 < M(p\bar{\Lambda}K^-) < 3.53 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ for χ_{c1} , $1.01 < M(K^+K^-) < 1.03 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

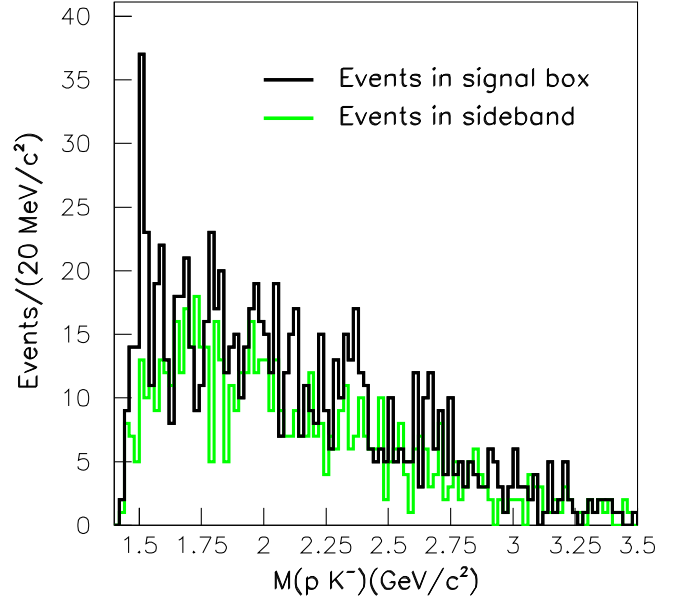


FIG. 1. Invariant mass distribution of pK^- for $p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ candidate events.

for ϕ , and $1.46 < M(pK^-) < 1.58 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ for $\Lambda(1520)$, we still observe a large number of signal events. Ignoring other possible but unseen intermediate resonances, we attribute them to signal events of $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$ four-body decays. Note that there is no significant D^0 peak found. We also find a threshold peak mixed with the phase space distribution in the $p\bar{\Lambda}$ mass spectrum. Therefore, we generate signal MC samples with this feature to mimic data. This mixing ratio is mode dependent in order to match with data.

We use an extended unbinned maximum likelihood fit to extract signal yields of $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$ four-body decays. The likelihood function is defined as

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{e^{-(N_s+N_b)}}{N!} \prod_{i=1}^N (N_s P_s(\Delta E^i, M_{\text{bc}}^i) + N_b P_b(\Delta E^i, M_{\text{bc}}^i)),$$

where N is the number of total events, i denotes the event index, N_s and N_b are fit parameters representing the numbers of signal events and background events, respectively; P_s and P_b are the probability density functions of signal and background, respectively.

Backgrounds like generic ($b \rightarrow c$) B decays and other rare ($b \rightarrow u, d, s$) B decays, after investigation of MC simulation, show no peak in the fit region. We combine them with continuum background as the general background to fit with. We use Gaussian functions to model the signal shapes in both ΔE and M_{bc} , a second-order polynomial function for the background ΔE distribution and an ARGUS function [26] for the background M_{bc} distribution. The fit results are displayed in Fig. 2. Note that the possible

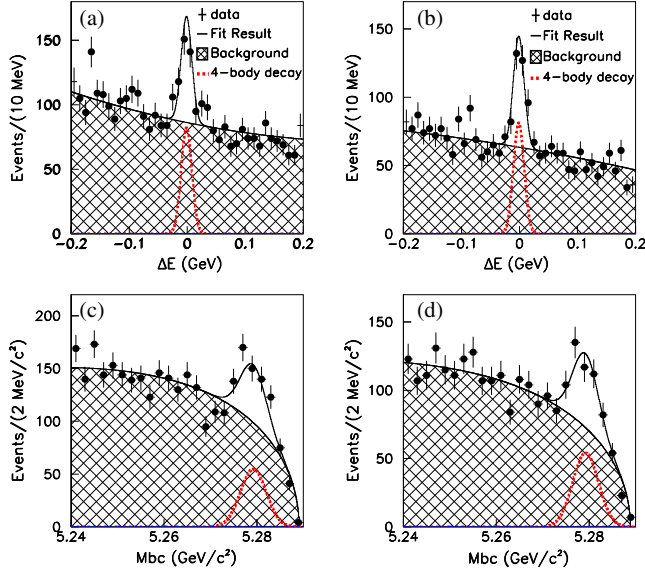


FIG. 2. Fit results of four-body decays in projection plots of ΔE ($5.27 < M_{bc} < 5.29 \text{ GeV}/c^2$) and M_{bc} ($|\Delta E| < 0.03 \text{ GeV}$). (a), (c) are for the final state $p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$; (b), (d) are for the final state $p\Lambda K^+K^+$.

feed-down events from $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Sigma}^0 K^+ K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Sigma^0 K^+ K^+$ will form a peak around -0.1 GeV in the ΔE spectra. The fit bias due to this excess around -0.1 GeV is negligible ($< 0.4\%$). We apply the same fitting procedure in bins of $M_{p\bar{\Lambda}/\bar{p}\Lambda}$ to determine the signal yields. The corresponding normalized and efficiency-corrected signal yield distributions are shown in Fig. 3.

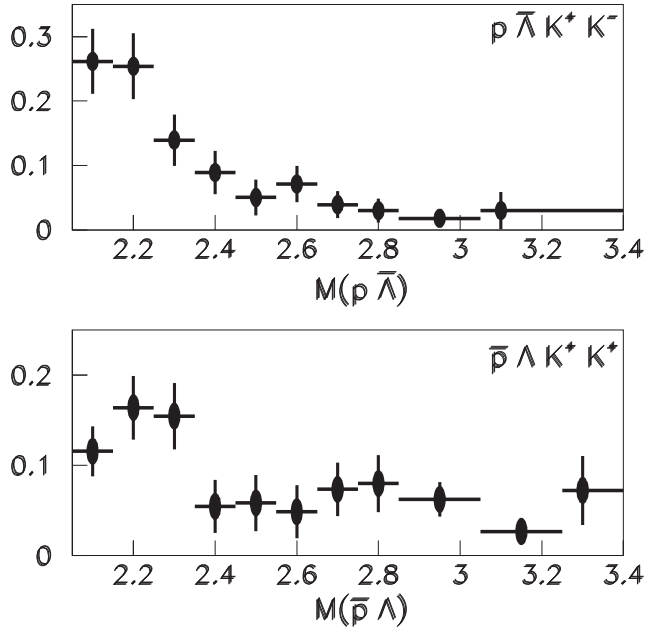


FIG. 3. Normalized and efficiency-corrected signal yield distributions of $M(p\bar{\Lambda})$ and $M(\bar{p}\Lambda)$ for four-body decays. Clear threshold peaks are observed.

Since the signal yield is significant enough, we fix the signal shapes in a similar likelihood fit to extract the signal yields with intermediate resonances η_c , J/ψ , χ_{c1} , $\Lambda(1520)$ and ϕ . In addition to ΔE and M_{bc} , we include the invariant mass of an intermediate resonance as a third variable in our fit assuming that the probability density function, $P(M_{\text{res}})$, is independent of $P(\Delta E, M_{bc})$. We use the world average mass and width values of these resonances to generate MC samples [2]. For η_c and ϕ , we use a Breit-Wigner function convolved with a Gaussian function; for J/ψ and χ_{c1} , we use the sum of two Gaussian functions in order to fit the corresponding MC mass distributions; for $\Lambda(1520)$, we use one Breit-Wigner function. The obtained signal shapes are fixed in the later data fit. We use a 2nd-order polynomial function to model the background shape in the resonance mass spectrum. The different components of the fit function are the resonance signal (peaking in all spectra),

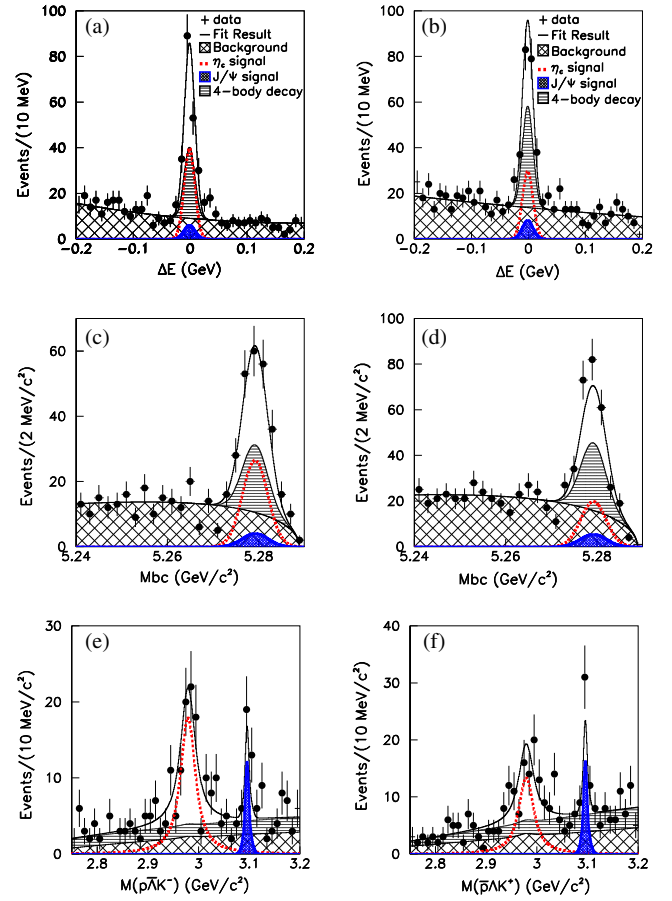


FIG. 4. Fit results of $B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+$ ($\eta_c \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda} K^-$) and $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ ($J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda} K^-$) with $2.75 < M_{p\bar{\Lambda}K^-}/M_{\bar{p}\Lambda K^+} < 3.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in projection plots of ΔE ($5.27 < M_{bc} < 5.29 \text{ GeV}/c^2$), M_{bc} ($|\Delta E| < 0.03 \text{ GeV}$) and $M_{p\bar{\Lambda}K^-}/M_{\bar{p}\Lambda K^+}$ (in signal box). (a), (c), (e) are for the final state $p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$; (b), (d), (f) are for the final state $\bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$. For illustration purpose, we only show signal curve peaking in all spectra and four-body decay as horizontal-line region, and merge all backgrounds as cross-hatched region.

four-body decay signal (only peaking in ΔE and M_{bc}), background with resonances produced by other processes (only peaking in M_{res}) and nonpeaking background. In contrast to fixed peaking shapes, all non-peaking shapes are floated and determined from the fit. Figure 4 shows the fit results for $B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+$ ($\eta_c \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^-$) and $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ ($J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^-$). Figure 5 shows the fit result of $B^+ \rightarrow \chi_{c1} K^+$. Figure 6 shows the fit result of $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\phi$. After applying charmonia veto and ϕ veto, the fit results of $B^+ \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}K^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda}(1520)\Lambda K^+$ are shown in Fig. 7.

In the mass window of η_c , we observe a clear resonance in $M(pK^-)$, at the nominal mass of $\Lambda(1520)$. So there is a non-negligible fraction of $\eta_c \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^-$ from $\eta_c \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}$. In the same manner, we fit the ΔE , M_{bc} , $M(p\bar{\Lambda}K^-)$ and $M(pK^-)$ spectra simultaneously in order to determine the yields of $\eta_c \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}$. The fit results are shown in Fig. 8.

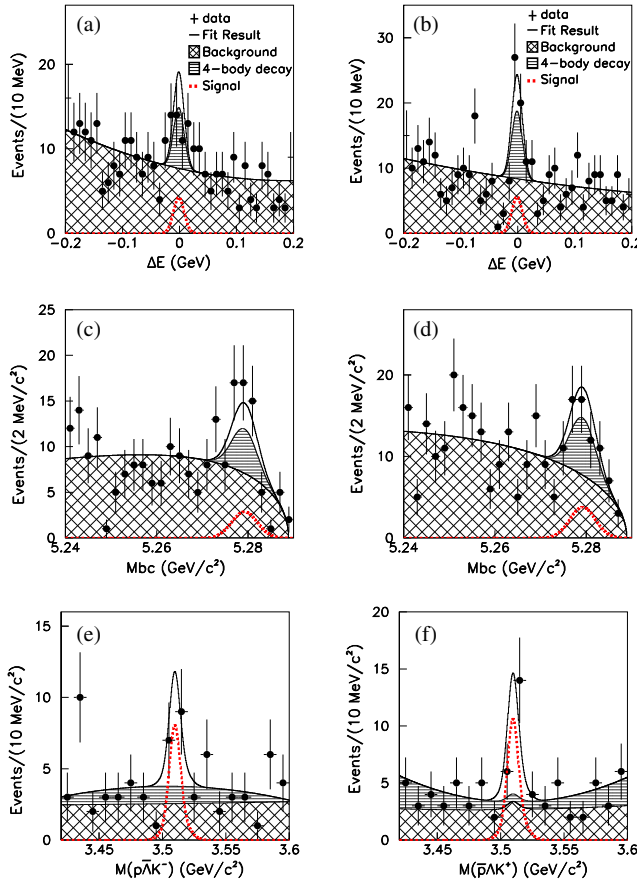


FIG. 5. Fit results of $B^+ \rightarrow \chi_{c1} K^+$ with $3.42 < M_{p\bar{\Lambda}K^-}/M_{\bar{p}\Lambda K^+} < 3.6$ GeV/c^2 in projection plots of ΔE ($5.27 < M_{bc} < 5.29$ GeV/c^2), M_{bc} ($|\Delta E| < 0.03$ GeV) and $M_{p\bar{\Lambda}K^-}/M_{\bar{p}\Lambda K^+}$ (in signal box). (a), (c), (e) are for the final state $p\bar{\Lambda}K^-$; (b), (d), (f) are for the final state $\bar{p}\Lambda K^+ K^+$. For illustration purpose, we only show signal curve peaking in all spectra and four-body decay as horizontal-line region, and merge all backgrounds as cross-hatched region.

The value of the fit significance is defined by $\sqrt{-2 \times \ln(\mathcal{L}_0/\mathcal{L}_s)}(\sigma)$, where \mathcal{L}_0 is the likelihood with null signal yield and \mathcal{L}_s is the likelihood with measured yield. In the above calculation, we have used the likelihood function which is smeared by considering the additive systematic uncertainties that would affect the fitted yield. For those modes with fit significance less than 3σ , we integrate the smeared likelihood function in order to find out the upper limit yield at the 90% confidence level. That is, to calculate N that satisfies

$$\int_0^N \mathcal{L}(n) dn = 0.9 \int_0^\infty \mathcal{L}(n) dn,$$

where $\mathcal{L}(n)$ denotes the likelihood function with the condition that the number of signal events is fixed to the value n .

For systematic uncertainty, we consider tracking uncertainty per track for charged particles (0.35% for each charged particle and 0.70% for Λ). The uncertainty of the estimated number of $B\bar{B}$ pairs is 1.4%. The Λ selection uncertainty is determined by the difference of the flight-distance distribution between data and MC (3.0%). Some of systematic uncertainties are mode-dependent. The uncertainty in proton/antiproton identification is determined by using the study of $\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}$ (0.38% to 0.53%) in data, while the uncertainty in kaon identification is determined from the study of $D^{*+} \rightarrow D^0 \pi^+$, $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$ in data (2.0% to 3.7%). We generate two kinds of signal MC: one considering a threshold enhancement in the dibaryonic

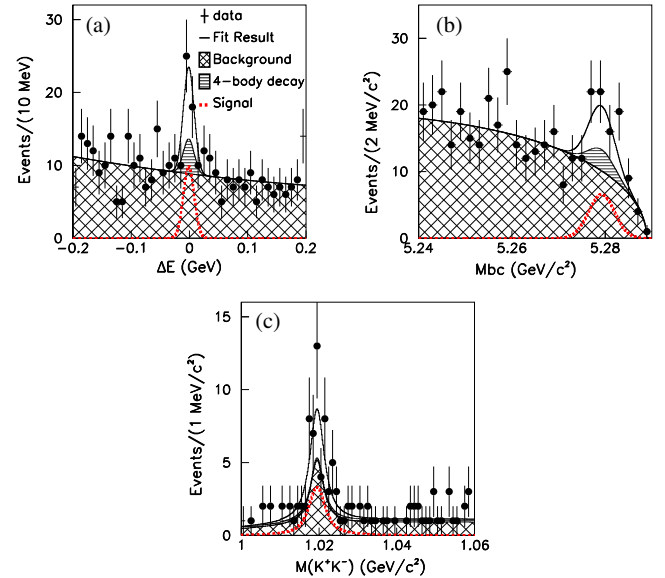


FIG. 6. Fit result of $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\phi$ with $1.00 < M_{K^+K^-} < 1.08$ GeV/c^2 in projection plots of ΔE ($5.27 < M_{bc} < 5.29$ GeV/c^2), M_{bc} ($|\Delta E| < 0.03$ GeV) and $M_{K^+K^-}$ (in signal box). For illustration purpose, we only show signal curve peaking in all spectra and four-body decay as horizontal-line region, and merge all backgrounds as cross-hatched region.

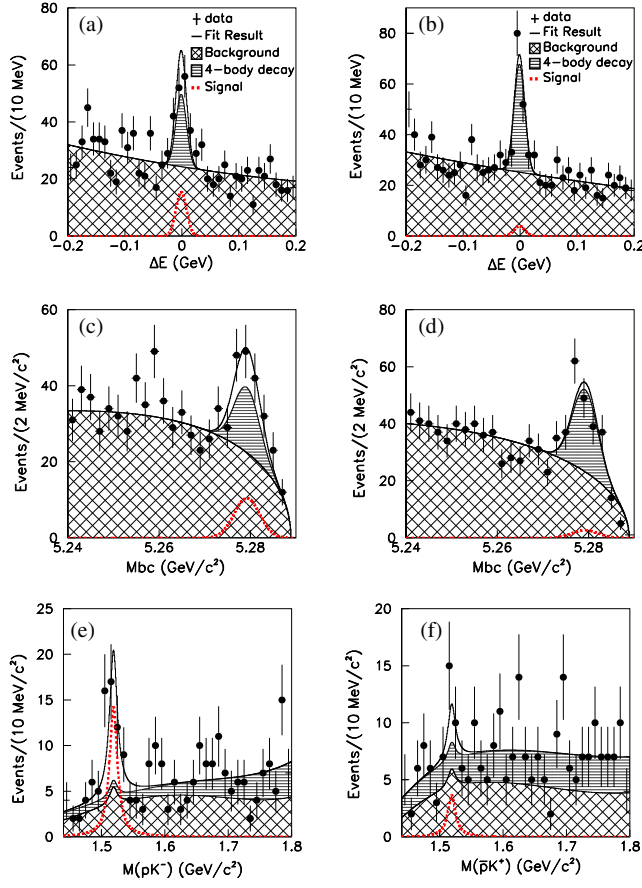


FIG. 7. Fit results of $B^+ \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}K^+$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda}(1520)\Lambda K^+$ with $1.44 < M_{pK^-}/M_{\bar{p}K^+} < 1.8$ GeV/ c^2 in projection plots of ΔE ($5.27 < M_{bc} < 5.29$ GeV/ c^2), M_{bc} ($|\Delta E| < 0.03$ GeV) and $M_{pK^-}/M_{\bar{p}K^+}$ (in signal box). (a), (c), (e) are for the final state $p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$; (b), (d), (f) are for the final state $\bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^-$. For illustration purpose, we only show signal curve peaking in all spectra and four-body decay as horizontal-line region, and merge all backgrounds as cross-hatched region.

system, the other with only phase space decays, and we mix the two samples to mimic the real data. The MC modeling uncertainty is set to be the larger difference in reconstruction efficiency between the threshold enhancement MC and phase space MC (0.52% to 9.3%). The smallest value, 0.52%, is for $B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+$ due to limited phase space. The uncertainty from the fixed signal probability density function is obtained by varying all of the shape variables by one sigma and refitting (2.7% to 3.3%). The statistical uncertainty of the MC reconstruction efficiency is 0.31% to 0.47%. The uncertainty of $q\bar{q}$ suppression is obtained from the reconstruction efficiency difference with and without the cut (0.50% to 5.0%). We apply the D^0 veto to redo the analysis and attribute the possible veto uncertainty 2.2% to 7.4%, where the statistical uncertainty from data is included. All the above uncertainties are combined in quadrature to obtain the total systematic uncertainties (5.9% to 12%).

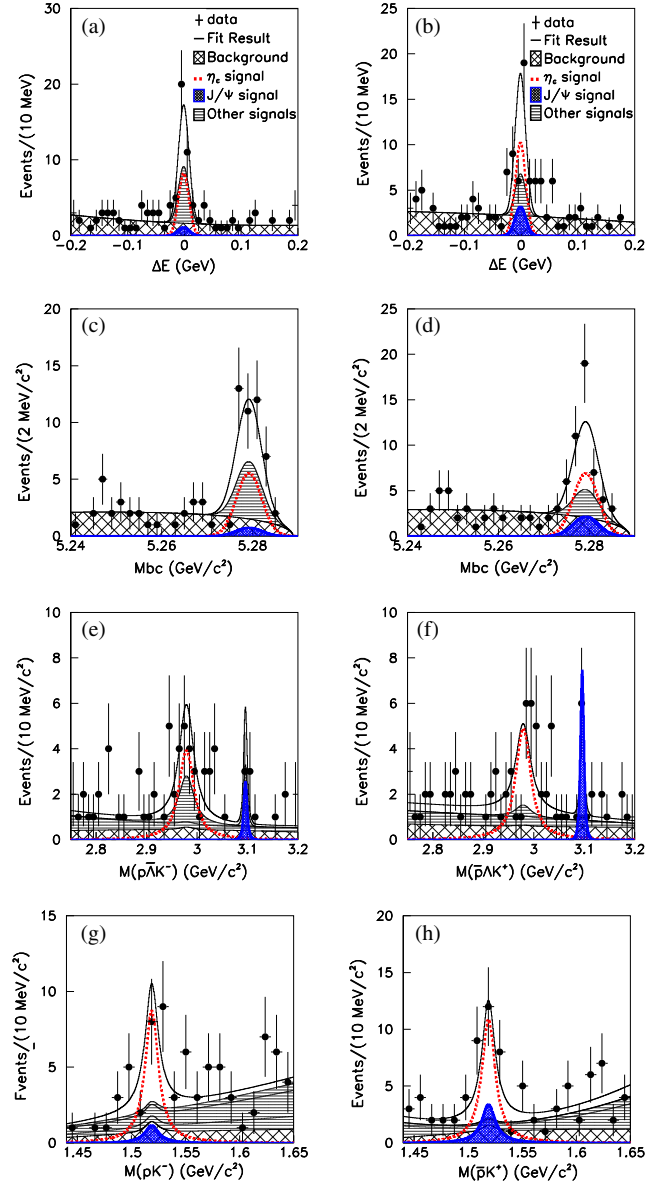


FIG. 8. Fit results of $B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+$ ($\eta_c \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}$) and $B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+$ ($J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}$) in projection plots of ΔE ($5.27 < M_{bc} < 5.29$, $2.9 < M_{p\bar{\Lambda}K^-}/M_{\bar{p}\Lambda K^+} < 3.12$ GeV/ c^2 and $1.45 < M_{pK^-}/M_{\bar{p}K^+} < 1.58$ GeV/ c^2), M_{bc} ($|\Delta E| < 0.03$ GeV, $2.9 < M_{p\bar{\Lambda}K^-}/M_{\bar{p}\Lambda K^+} < 3.12$ GeV/ c^2 and $1.45 < M_{pK^-}/M_{\bar{p}K^+} < 1.58$ GeV/ c^2), $M_{p\bar{\Lambda}K^-}/M_{\bar{p}\Lambda K^+}$ (in signal box and $1.45 < M_{pK^-}/M_{\bar{p}K^+} < 1.58$ GeV/ c^2) and $M_{pK^-}/M_{\bar{p}K^+}$ (in signal box and $2.9 < M_{p\bar{\Lambda}K^-}/M_{\bar{p}\Lambda K^+} < 3.12$ GeV/ c^2). (a), (c), (e), (g) are for the final state $p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$; (b), (d), (f), (h) are for the final state $\bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^-$. For illustration purpose, we only show signal curve peaking in all spectra, and merge other B decay signals as horizontal-line region and all backgrounds as cross-hatched region.

Table I summarizes the fit yields, reconstruction efficiencies and corresponding systematic uncertainties of significant and evident modes; Table II summarizes the upper limit yields and reconstruction efficiencies for modes with fit significance less than 3σ . Note that the

TABLE I. Signal yields (N_s), reconstruction efficiencies (ϵ_{eff}), systematic uncertainties (sys) and significances (σ) from extended unbinned maximum likelihood fits for modes with fit significance greater than 3σ .

Mode	N_s	$\epsilon_{\text{eff}}(\%)$	sys(%)	σ
$B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$	$190.1^{+20.3}_{-19.6}$	5.84	12.2	11.7
$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$	$188.0^{+19.2}_{-18.4}$	6.40	11.8	12.7
$(B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+) \times (\eta_c \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^-)$	$89.7^{+14.1}_{-13.3}$	7.19	5.91	8.46
$(B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+) \times (\eta_c \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+)$	$67.0^{+14.1}_{-13.3}$	7.36	7.55	5.63
Total significance of the η_c mode				10.2
$(B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+) \times (J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^-)$	$19.0^{+5.7}_{-5.0}$	6.57	7.83	4.92
$(B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+) \times (J/\psi \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+)$	$25.5^{+6.6}_{-5.9}$	6.56	5.90	5.50
Total significance of the J/ψ mode				7.38
$(B^+ \rightarrow \chi_{c1} K^+) \times (\chi_{c1} \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^-)$	$10.2^{+4.6}_{-3.9}$	7.39	11.9	3.18
$(B^+ \rightarrow \chi_{c1} K^+) \times (\chi_{c1} \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+)$	$13.4^{+5.0}_{-4.3}$	6.38	10.5	3.79
Total significance of the χ_{c1} mode				4.95
$(B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\phi) \times (\phi \rightarrow K^+K^-)$	23.2 ± 6.1	7.52	9.53	5.15
$(B^+ \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}K^+) \times (\Lambda(1520) \rightarrow pK^-)$	30.3 ± 8.6	7.60	10.5	4.08
$(B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+) \times (\eta_c \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}) \times (\Lambda(1520) \rightarrow pK^-)$	19.2 ± 12.5	7.58	9.68	1.97
$(B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+) \times (\eta_c \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda}(1520)\Lambda) \times (\bar{\Lambda}(1520) \rightarrow \bar{p}K^+)$	23.9 ± 13.4	6.95	6.40	2.50
Total significance of the η_c submode				3.18

TABLE II. Upper limits of yields (N_{upper}) and reconstruction efficiencies (ϵ_{eff}) from extended unbinned maximum likelihood fits for modes with fit significance less than 3σ . For the J/ψ decay, we determine its upper limit of branching fraction with the combined $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$ data samples.

Mode	N_{upper}	$\epsilon_{\text{eff}}(\%)$	comment
$(B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+) \times (J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}) \times (\Lambda(1520) \rightarrow pK^-)$	17.2	5.88	90% C.L.
$(B^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda}(1520)\Lambda K^+) \times (\bar{\Lambda}(1520) \rightarrow \bar{p}K^+)$	19.8	5.70	90% C.L.

reconstruction efficiencies in Table I and Table II include the decay branching fraction 63.9% for the long-lived $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-$ in the MC simulation and efficiencies have been corrected for the MC-data difference of the proton/kaon identification.

TABLE III. Summary of measured branching fractions. Here c.c. stands for the corresponding charge-conjugation process. The listed four-body modes exclude the mentioned intermediate resonances.

Mode	Branching fraction
$B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$	$(4.10^{+0.45}_{-0.43} \pm 0.50) \times 10^{-6}$
$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$	$(3.70^{+0.39}_{-0.37} \pm 0.44) \times 10^{-6}$
$B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\phi$	$(7.95 \pm 2.09 \pm 0.77) \times 10^{-7}$
$\eta_c \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^- + \text{c.c.}$	$(2.83^{+0.36}_{-0.34} \pm 0.35) \times 10^{-3}$
$J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^- + \text{c.c.}$	$(8.32^{+1.63}_{-1.45} \pm 0.49) \times 10^{-4}$
$\chi_{c1} \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^- + \text{c.c.}$	$(9.15^{+2.63}_{-2.25} \pm 0.86) \times 10^{-4}$
$B^+ \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda}K^+$	$(2.23 \pm 0.63 \pm 0.25) \times 10^{-6}$
$\eta_c \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda} + \text{c.c.}$	$(3.48 \pm 1.48 \pm 0.46) \times 10^{-3}$
$J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda(1520)\bar{\Lambda} + \text{c.c.}$	$< 1.80 \times 10^{-3}$
$B^+ \rightarrow \bar{\Lambda}(1520)\Lambda K^+$	$< 2.08 \times 10^{-6}$

We use the world average values [2] of $\mathcal{B}(\Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B^+B^-)$, $\mathcal{B}(\phi \rightarrow K^+K^-)$, $\mathcal{B}(\Lambda(1520) \rightarrow pK^-)$, $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow \eta_c K^+)$, $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow J/\psi K^+)$ and $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow \chi_{c1} K^+)$, to obtain the results listed in Table III. The measured branching fractions of four-body decay of $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\phi$ are consistent with theoretical predictions [12,13]. Note that $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-)$ is compatible with $\mathcal{B}(B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\pi^+\pi^-)$ [27].

In summary, using a sample of $772 \times 10^6 B\bar{B}$ pair events, we measure the branching fractions of the four-body decays $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^+K^-$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \bar{p}\Lambda K^+K^+$ with intermediate resonance modes being excluded. The feature of a threshold enhancement of the dibaryon system persists, but with a non-negligible phase space contribution. We also observe the three-body decay of $\eta_c \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^- + \text{c.c.}$ The measured $\mathcal{B}(J/\psi \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^- + \text{c.c.})$ is in good agreement with the world average [2]. We also confirm the observation of $\chi_{c1} \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}K^- + \text{c.c.}$ These decay amplitudes can be useful for a better understanding of the charmonium system. We observe the charmless decay $B^+ \rightarrow p\bar{\Lambda}\phi$ with a smaller branching fraction than that of the four-body decay. Its signal yield is not significant enough to perform an angular analysis.

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